

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 SSC-01
CPR-01 CA-01 /111 W
-----058435 262123Z /17

R 261400Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1681
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3219

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU
SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC JAM IN ANKARA

1. THE PACE OF DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF ANKARA
DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAS BEEN HECTIC. FOR EXAMPLE,
DURING THE PAST WEEK CHAIRMAN OF BULGARIA'S HOME FRONT
KUBADINSKI, NORWEGIAN FINANCE MINISTER KLEPPE, ROMANIAN PRIMIN
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MANESCU, AND CHIEF OF THE SOVIET GENERAL STAFF OGARKOV VISITED
ANKARA. THE PREVIOUS WEEK PRIMIN ECEVIT SPENT FOUR DAYS IN
YUGOSLAVIA; FONMIN OKCUN LEFT ANKARA APRIL 18 TO ATTEND THE
CENTO FONMIN MEETING IN LONDON, THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE FONMIN
MEETING IN DAKAR AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE FONMIN MEETING IN
STRASBOURG. SEVERAL OTHER TURKISH MINISTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN
TRAVELLING, INCLUDING MINCOMMERCE KOPRULULER TO BULGARIA,

MINENTERPRISES BULUTOGLU AND MINSTATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
CETIN TO GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND, AND MINSOCIAL SECURITY
ISGUZAR AND MINSTATE AKOVA TO VARIOUS WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

2. THIS HECTIC PACE APPEARS TO BE DESTINED TO CONTINUE.
PRIMIN ECEVIT WILL BE OUTSIDE OF TURKEY AT LEAST HALF OF
THE MONTH OF MAY, MAKING OFFICIAL VISITS TO SOFIA, BONN,
WASHINGTON, AND NEW YORK. HE WILL ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND,
VISIT LONDON TO GIVE A SPEECH TO THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC
STUDIES AND MAKE BRIEF VISITS TO VIENNA AND BRUSSELS. THEN,
SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING FROM THE US IN EARLY JUNE, HE WILL
VISIT THE SOVIET UNION.

3. THE PACE OF THIS ACTIVITY RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT
WHETHER THE GOT IS OVERLOADING ITSELF WITH VISITS AND VISITORS.
THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAUCRACY, ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY, IS IN THE MIDST OF TRANSITION. ACCORDING TO PRESS
AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, AGREEMENT IS NOW BEING SOUGHT FOR
THE ASSIGNMENT OF PERHAPS AS MANY AS 40 NEW AMBASSADORS.
MANY OF THOSE TO BE ASSIGNED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOW
OCCUPY KEY POSITIONS SUCH AS DEPSEC GEN FOR INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY; DIRGEN OF BILATERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS; DIRGEN OF
MULTILATERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS; DIRGEN OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS; DIRGEN OF MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; DIRECTORS
OF THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT, EASTERN DEPARTMENT AND MIDDLE
EAST-AFRICA DEPARTMENT; AND DIRGEN OF CYPRUS-GREEK AFFAIRS.
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4. PERHAPS EVEN MORE OVERLOADED THAN THE BUREAUCRACY ARE
THE INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE NOVICES IN FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. ECEVIT'S PROBLEM IS NOT THAT HE IS A NOVICE, BUT
THAT HE IS A ONE-MAN SHOW. WE HAVE HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM
MFA OFFICERS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO BRIEF HIM FOR
IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND THAT HE SEEMS TO PREFER TO OPERATE OUT
OF HIS BRIEF CASE -- WRITING AND TYPING HIS OWN SPEECHES
AND POLICY PAPERS -- "THE HIGHEST PAID SECRETARY IN TURKEY."
AMONG HIS SYMPATHIZERS AND SUPPORTERS BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT
THERE IS A CONCERN THAT HE IS FORCING A PACE THAT HE CANNOT
PHYSICALLY SUSTAIN. FOR OUR PART WE ARE CONCERNED THAT HIS
HIGHLY PERSONALIZED STYLE COULD, ESPECIALLY UNDER PRESSURES
OF TIME, FATIGUE, AND EMOTION, INCREASE HIS TENDENCY TO OVER-
REACT DURING THIS DELICATE PERIOD IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS (AS
HE DID TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT BEFORE THE SENATE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 9 AND TO THE DELAY IN HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS FROM APRIL 14
TO APRIL 25).
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, VISITS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA03219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780179-0071
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780417/aaaaanwn.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8059bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2849359
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC JAM IN ANKARA
TAGS: PEPR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8059bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014